



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### Testimony

#### ***In Support of Raised HB 5074***

An Act Concerning Funding for Operation Wingspan to Assist in the Recovery of Stolen Vehicles

#### **Appropriations Committee March 17, 2022**

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Vice Chairs Senator Hartley, Representatives Dathan and Nolan, Ranking Members Senator Miner, Representative France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for raising HB5074, An Act Concerning Funding for Operation Wingspan to Assist in the Recovery of Stolen Vehicles.

Operation Wingspan was established as a pilot program using COVID-19 Relief Funds in September 2021 to address rising car thefts in our state. Through the program, police work collaboratively to identify stolen vehicles and prevent escalating crimes. The program operates out of the Bridgeport Command Center and is a cooperative effort between regional police forces and the FBI.

Initial funding for the program provided for personnel and technology support. While the pilot concluded in January 2022, the results of the program were so impressive that the participating departments have done their best to at least maintain partial funding, however this is not guaranteed to be sustainable. In the short time the program was in place 84 stolen vehicles were recovered, 12 firearms seized, and 38 adults and 7 juveniles were arrested.

The demonstrated results of Operation Wingspan are impressive and meaningful. Passage of HB5074 will ensure that this program can continue at its full operating capability to intercept crimes and help improve public safety, which is why I strongly encourage you to move HB5074 forward.

Thank you for your consideration.